

CLAIMS

1. A method of printing a patterned layer onto a substrate (4), the method comprising:

5 detecting (30) the alignment of each of plural areas on the substrate; individually positioning (32) subbeds (42-45) of a printing machine (40) in accordance with the detected alignment; transferring (34) material from clichés supported on the subbeds onto a common carrier (16); and

10 transferring (35) the material from the common carrier (16) onto the substrate.

2. A method of printing a patterned layer onto a first substrate (4), the method comprising:

15 detecting (60) the alignment of each of plural areas on a second substrate; individually positioning (61) subbeds (42-45) of a printing machine (40) in accordance with the detected alignment; transferring (62) material from clichés (50-53) supported on the subbeds

20 onto a common carrier (16); and transferring (65) the material from the common carrier (16) onto the first substrate.

25 3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, comprising detecting (31; 61) the alignment of the clichés supported on the subbeds, and positioning the subbeds also in accordance with the detected alignment of the clichés.

30 4. A substrate provided with a printed patterned layer through the method of any of claims 1 to 3.

5. A device including a part of a substrate according to claim 4.

6. A printing machine bed (41) comprising an array of subbeds (42-45) individually alignable in a common plane.

5 7. A bed as claimed in claim 6, comprising an array of four or more individually alignable subbeds.

8. A printing machine (40) including a bed as claimed in claim 6 or claim 7 and a controller (54) operable to control alignment of the subbeds.